

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the introduction of the research. It contains background of research, statement of problem, research objectives, research significance, scope of the study, definition of key terms, and organization of writing.

### 1.1 Background of Research

Everyone uses language as a tool of communication. The language has function as an expression of human's mind. Sometimes people deliver their intention through figurative language in speaking or sign in the written form as usual in a work of literature such as poem, short story, and novel. But, some critics often explain their intention with something refers to other things in short, it is called symbol. Sign and symbol can be found everywhere, whole part of our body, in talking, face expression; people find the sign in our mouth, our appearance; people find the sign in our eyes.

In relation to the word symbol, Cuddon (1982:671) explains that it is derived from "the Greek, verb *Symballain* 'to throw together', and its noun *Symbolon* 'mark', 'emblem', or 'sign'. It is an object, animate or inanimate, which represents or 'stands for' something else". Action and gesture are also symbolic.

For example, the clenched fist is symbols of aggression; arm raised denotes surrender, etc.

Sign or a symbol has two basic principal aspects. The first is representative and second is interpretative. Representative is that symbol is something that represents or substitutes something else, while interpretative is a situation where symbol gives a chance to the reader for interpreting another meaning besides the meaning of the words themselves. The basic requirement of human being is requirement of symbols through human activities such as eating, seeing, and moving, those are as fundamental process from thought and taking place all the time. Symbol appears in many different contexts and for more purposes (Pierce in Rusmana, 2004:50)

In discussing literature, the term symbol is applied only for word, phrase and sentence that signify an object or event, which in its turn signifies something, or has a range of reference; beyond it (Abrams, 1985:206). It can symbolize anything depending on the context of the text. The more we read and study literature, the more we will come across words that always function symbolically. It may suggest human's reality or even action of human's being like "Heroism". In a heroic story which is the heroic novel exactly has a heroism act inside. We can define heroism as the characteristics of a hero.

Heroism is a moral concept with various dimensions. Heroes are determined according to one's individual taste and that's why they are very subjective. The title "hero" is the determination of the "High price" or value that

is given to a person by people as an attempt to show their thankfulness and admiration for their great generosity (Pukinskienė, 2006)

A character or fictional character is a person in narrative work of art such as novel, short story, drama or film. Character, particularly when enacted by an actor in the theatre or cinema, involves the illusion of being a human. In literature, characters guide readers through their stories, helping them to understand plots and themes.

Character is an essential component in writing good literature. Modern fiction, in particular, has taken great advantage of this literary device. Understanding the role of characterization in storytelling is very important for any writer. To put it briefly, it helps us make sense of the behavior of any character in a story by helping us understand their thought processes. A good use of characterization always leads the readers or audience to relate better to the events taking place in the story. Dialogues play a very important role in developing a character because they give us an opportunity to examine the motivations and actions of the characters more deeply.

As the description above, symbol can represent an object, idea, or a concept. It can symbolize anything depends on the context of the text. Suzanne Collins has written *The Hunger Games* novel which has life meaning such as heroism.

*The Hunger Games* is a 2008 science fiction novel by the American writer Suzanne Collins. It is written in the voice of 16-year-old Katniss Everdeen, who lives in the dystopian, post-apocalyptic nation of Panem in North America. The

Capitol, a highly advanced metropolis, exercises political control over the rest of the nation. *The Hunger Games* is an annual event in which one boy and one girl aged 12–18 from each of the twelve districts surrounding the Capitol are selected by lottery to compete in a televised battle to the death.

The novel deals with the struggle for self-preservation that the people of Panem face in their districts and *The Hunger Games* in which they must participate. The citizens' starvation and their need for resources, both in and outside of the arena, create an atmosphere of helplessness that the main characters try to overcome in their fight for survival. Katniss needs to hunt to provide food for her family, resulting in the development of skills that are useful to her in the games (such as her proficiency with the bow and arrow), and represents her rejection of the Capitol's rules in the face of life-threatening situation.

There have been some study is related to this present research. The first related study to this present research is Lilis Rosidah (2009) entitled *The Symbol of Struggle of Life in Ted Hughes Poems*. This research is intended to know the kinds of symbol used by Ted Hughes to represent struggle of life in his poems, to describe the relationship between representament, object, interpretant, and to know the meaning of symbols of struggle of life in Ted Hughes' poems.

By means of Pierce's theory describes how those symbols formed. In Ted Hughes' poems, there exists what Pierce sees as triadic relation in semiotics. Such words like owl, the shark and many others. For example, the word 'owl' in The Earth of Owl in the *Qualisign* level, it can be interpreted in many different meanings, because its representaments is formed by the quality or color. It is not

called as symbol yet, because in the *Qualisign* level, it is as same as the bird in generally. When it is placed in *Sinsign* level, it can be called as a symbol because in this level, it is placed in the certain concept or in the real fact. Then, when it shows something and conveyed conventionally by the society who used that sign, so it is placed in the *Legisign* level.

The second study was conducted by Mahlud (2009) he investigated *The Symbol of Money on Agatha Christie's Sparkling Cyanide*. This analysis deals with the symbols of money and its symbolization. Iris as main character has much money, because she gets heritage from her sister. The heritage money becomes boomerang for Iris. Money becomes the symbol of properties and remembrance, and money become symbol of death. Then this symbolization, according to Frye can pass four phase of symbolization. In every phase, the symbols become important things.

After analyzing this research, it is defined that the symbols in Agatha Christie's work is money which symbolizes properties, power, remembrance, and death, because money is what things are done for. The result of the study showed money as property, money symbolizes death, and money symbolizes remembrance.

The novel is chosen because after the first reading, and based on the background description above, there are many things of symbol that symbolize something. Furthermore, in the novel there are many pointers, which stand in some sentences, and paragraph, which supported the symbolization in analysis

needed later. Finally chosen the title “**The Symbol of Heroism Act of The Characters in Suzzane Collins *the Hunger Games*”**”.

## **1.2 Research Problem**

The symbol of heroism in *The Hunger Games* novel by Suzanne Collin has become an interesting point in this study. Based on the background of problems above, symbols are able to assist of requirement in our life. Here then the research attempts to depict the symbolization in the novel.

Based on the statement above, there are two problems that can be formulated:

1. How are the heroism acts of the characters described in Suzanne Collin’s *The Hunger Games*?
2. What are the symbols of the heroism act of the characters in *The Hunger Games*?

## **1.3 Research Objective**

In accordance with the formulation of problem above, so the purpose of this research is:

1. To understand the heroism act of the characters described in Suzanne Collin’s *The Hunger Games*.
2. To find out the symbol of heroism act of the characters in *The Hunger Games*.

#### **1.4 Research Significance**

Practically, this research is generally directed to the students of English Literature, the reader and other researchers. For the student of English Literature, this research can be used for comprehensive study about semiotics especially about symbolism and for enriching knowledge about literary works especially novel which consist of many symbols. For the reader, it can be used as knowledge which showed the heroism act in *The Hungers Games* novel. Meanwhile for other researchers, this research can be used as a reference, especially for those who are interested in researching about the same field but with the different element. Theoretically, this research can be used for adding theory about semiotics approach especially symbolism.

#### **1.5 Scope of the Study**

Symbol can represent an object, idea, or a concept. It can symbolize anything depends on the context of the text. The limitation of the study is focused on analyzing the symbol of heroism act on Suzanne Collin's *The Hunger Games* in term of its description and meaning.

#### **1.6 Definition of Key Term**

To avoid misunderstanding on the terms used in this paper, the clarification stated as follows:

1. **Symbol:** A sign which has further layers of meaning. In other words, a symbol means more than it literally says. (Signs are literal; symbols are not).
2. **Heroism:** Main male or female character in a story or novel following the standards of behavior considered acceptable and right or quality of being useful or important in person admired for bravery or others good qualities.
3. **Character:** a person in narrative work of art such as novel, short story, drama or film.
4. **Act:** The process of doing or performing something.
5. **The Hunger Games:** Series of three adventure novels written by the American author Suzanne Collins.

### 1.7 Organization of Writing

The first chapter discusses about background of research, research questions, research objectives, research significance, scope of the stud, definition of key terms and organization of the paper. The second chapter discusses about the review of the literature. It serves as a base for investigating the research and explains about some literature terms that are used as the concept of the research including the theories of symbol, theory of symbol in literature, and Pierce theory of symbol.

The third chapter discusses about the methodology of the research. On this chapter, research problems and research methods are explained. Besides that, this chapter includes an explanation of how to gather the data, classify



and analyze the data. Chapter four discusses the result of the research from what the writer has found. It presents the heroism act symbol and its interpretation. Finally, the last chapter that consists of the interpretation toward the result is discussed as the conclusion with some suggestions.

